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PARK COUNCIL NEWS

VOL. 69, NO. 4
SEPTEMBER, 1969

Newsletter of the Contra Costa Park Council, P.O. Box 101, Walnut Creek, Calif.,94597
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Editor's Note

The Park Council News image is changing. We are switching from mimeographed sheets to printed pages, and from irregular appearances to monthly publication. Nothing very fancy, but easier on the eye.

This issue is transitional. Note that we've gone to double-column format with smaller type. We get more on the page, and it looks better. Lois Goldenberg, Martinez artist and Park Council member, is designing a new masthead, due for unveiling next month. She will also supply illustrations.

Dropping the pretense of the editorial "we", I want to say that I shall rely heavily on feedback to make the newsletter more effective. By feedback, I mean news items, comments, criticisms, retractions, outraged denials -- all of them signs that someone reads the stuff and cares. So, out with the feedback!

Meanwhile, thanks are due to the public agencies and private organizations that have supplied the news you are about to read.

Oh, a word of caution. The inclusion of any item in the text or the calendar of events must not be construed as Park Council endorsement of the organization or its activities. More likely than not, we do, but we don't necessarily. End of disclaimer.

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PARK COUNCIL MEETING SOON

The first Park Council board meeting of the new season is set for Wednesday, September 17, at the Concord Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord. Starting time is 8:00 p.m. sharp.

Please make a note that the meeting night has been changed from the customary third Monday of the month to the third Wednesday, and that we shall meet in Concord instead of the Geary Road Co-op.

All members of the Council are invited, nay, urged to attend.

LAS TRAMPAS EXPANDS

The EBRPD Board has authorized the exercise of options for the purchase of the Mueller property and the Star View Ranch for a total of $429,325 as major additions to the Las Trampas Regional Park. In addition, Board President John MacDonald was empowered to execute a contract with the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for federal assistance in the sum of $221,662 to help underwrite the cost. Purchase price of the 672-acre Mueller property is $275,000; the cost of the 313-acre Star View Ranch is $164,325. The park is situated west of Alamo and Danville.

Wildcat Canyon Acquisition Complete

The EBRPD Board has authorized the acquisition for $174,500 of the final 100-acre parcel in Wildcat Canyon from the Citizens Federal Savings and Loan Association. This action will complete the land acquisition in the area, 1,018 acres having been purchased from Trowbridge Properties, Inc. for $1,700,000 in January of this year.

Hulet C. Hornbeck, Chief of the EBRPD Land Acquisition and Management Department, explained that, with the purchase of this 100-acre parcel, the District's commitment to the City of Richmond will have been fulfilled, clearing the way for transfer of 317 acres of city-owned property to EBRPD.

Hornbeck added that the purchase price for the Citizens Federal acreage is $1,650 an acre--the same as that paid for the Trowbridge land--but that, because the savings and loan firm had held the acreage off the market for two years, EBRPD would pick up assessments accruing since July, 1968.

$3,000,000+ For Regional Parks In County

EBRPD has adopted a $7,263,537 budget for fiscal 1969-70 with better than 50 percent of the expenditures going for land acquisition and development. The sum of $3,294,574 will be expended in Contra Costa County.

The budget calls for major development in two Regional Parks totaling $1,131,950. Expenditures of $523,800 are planned for Briones Regional Park in Contra Costa County and $608,150 for Anthony Chabot Regional Park in Alameda County. Additionally in Contra Costa County, $1,573,895 will be expended for

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President: Alvin A. Burton, 151 Cafeto Court, Walnut Creek, Calif., 94598.

land acquisition and use and $121,500 for structures and improvements.

A total of $121,500 is earmarked for structures and improvements in four Contra Costa County parks and recreation areas. Here is the breakdown:

Contra Loma Regional Park, utilities and service road, $22,500; Las Trampas Regional Park, roads, parking for 70 cars, water, picnic areas and construction of three miles of trails, $47,800; proposed Shoreline Park (when negotiations are consummated) filling along railroad right-of-way, $50,000; and Kennedy Grove Regional Area, building for flammables, $1,200.

The sum of $1,573,895 will be expended for land acquisition and use in Contra Costa County. The breakdown shows:

Las Trampas Regional Park, $480,545; Wildcat Canyon extension of Tilden Regional Park, $696,000; proposed Nortonville-Somersville Mines Area Regional Park, $100,000, bringing the reserve for this purpose to $200,000; proposed Shoreline Park, $100,000, bringing the reserve for this purpose to $350,000; Briones Regional Park, $129,850; trails and right-of-way, $12,500; $55,000 reserve for opportunity acquisitions.

PCL Annual Workshop Conference Coming Up

The PLANNING AND CONSERVATION LEAGUE, legislative action arm for many of the state's conservation organizations, today announced the program for its fourth annual workshop conference, which will be held Saturday, September 20, at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The Conference, which is open to all persons interested in facing and solving pressing problems in planning and conservation, brings together leading conservationists and planners, legislators, government officials, and individuals from the sciences and professions for an interchange of ideas and expertise to solve problems of the environment through legislation. This is an opportunity for every citizen to contribute toward legislation that will alleviate and avoid the environmental crimes that endanger us all.

Sponsored by the Planning and Conservation League, the day-long conference will be co-hosted by the U.C.S.B. Political Science Department, the Institute of Environmental Stress, the Department of Urban Affairs, and UCSB Extension. Workshops on Planning (State, Regional, and Local), Environmental Pollution (Air, Noise, and Water), Resources and Wildlife Conservation (including a special panel on Water Resources), Transportation, New Towns, Open Spaces and Parks, and a special Planning section on Beach Access and Acquisition will meet in morning and afternoon sessions. Each registrant is invited to contribute to the work and the legislative proposals of a workshop of his choice.

All interested persons are cordially invited to contact the PLANNING AND CONSERVATION LEAGUE, 127 Montgomery Street, Suite 306, (415) 392-1870, for pre-registration.

Conference-day registration will begin at 8:45 a.m. in the foyer of Campbell Hall on the university campus. The fee of $10.00 includes luncheon.

A Chance To Locomote Non-Smoggily

Smog-Free Locomotion Day will be celebrated September 27 in Berkeley. Parade in the streets of Berkeley followed by a picnic in Provo Park (Civic Center Plaza) and a press conference. Staging area Provo Park at 10:00 a.m. Parade/demonstration beginning at 10:30 a.m. ...People are urged to bring bicycles, rollerskates, wheelbarrows, WALK, steam-powered and electric-powered vehicles or any other ingenious device that is a form of smog-free locomotion. Organizer, Ectology Action 452-3673 549-2172.

Man And Creativity

On October 13th and 14th, The Civic Arts Gallery, 1641 Locust Street, Walnut Creek, is planning a special two-day activity on Man and Creativity. At 10:00 a.m. on both days the Kaiser produced, Academy Award winning film, "HOW MAN CREATES," will be shown in the Civic Arts Theatre. Directly after the film, discussion time will be alotted to pursuing the topic of how and why man creates. The exhibition in the Civic Arts Gallery, "Young California Sculptors," will be open these mornings for the special activities.

Park Council members and friends are invited to attend; there is no admission charge.

Udall To Keynote Oakland Museum Ecology Conference

Stewart L. Udall, former Secretary of the Interior and Author of 1976: Agenda for Tomorrow and The Quiet Crisis, will deliver the keynote address for "Our Changing Environment," a two-day ecological conference to be sponsored by the Natural Sciences Guild of the Oakland Museum on September 26 and 27, as part of dedication activities of the new museum, which opens on September 20.

Subject of Udall's address will be "Our Total Environment." The conference will also include panel discussions on such specific topics as pesticides, water and air pollution, population expansion, and land use, with particular emphasis on the environmental problems

of the San Francisco Bay Region.

Addresses and panel discussions will be presented in the Oakland Auditorium Theatre, next door to the new museum.

The museum staff will give guided tours of the new Hall of California Ecology during conference recesses. Registration fee for the conference is $2.00, plus an additional $1.50 for those who wish to reserve box lunches, which will be available during the conference's noon recess on Saturday, September 27.

Detailed program and registration form can be obtained from Hubert A. Dafoe, Acting Curator, Natural Sciences Division, The Oakland Museum, Tenth and Fallon Streets, Oakland, Calif. 94607.

Chris Nelson Heads Audubon Society

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society opened its fall activity program at 8 p.m. on September 4, with a panel presentation and audience-member forum "to try to get the pulse of our membership."

Christian Nelson, newly-elected president of the group and Chief of EBRPD's Interpretive Department, said that the main purpose of the meeting was to determine whether the Society was truly meeting the needs and desires of the majority of its members.

The club, which is an affiliate of the National Audubon Society, boasts a membership of 90 and is seeking additional members, Nelson said. The meetings, held on the first Thursday of each month, are open to the public.

"Should we stick to birds only? Should we enlarge our interests to cover broad ecological concepts? Do members enjoy 'adventure' programs not related to birds or conservation? How many conservation issues should we be concerned with, if any?"

Prospective members wishing to receive monthly announcements of programs and field trips may write to Nelson at RFD Box 294-A, Martinez.

PLANS FOR EBMUD LANDS

An intensive study into the best uses for 57,000 acres of watershed and other lands is now being made by EBMUD with the help of a 34-member Land Resource Committee.

The Committee, consisting of interested citizens and experts in conservation, land use and related fields, is advising EBMUD staff members in the development of a master plan for watershed property owned by the utility district in the East Bay hills and the Mother Lode country. The Park Council is well represented on the committee.

Completion of the master plan is expected to take approximately a year, during which time the committee will inspect all of the property in question--much of it virtually untouched, and closed to the general public for decades. Committee ideas for the best immediate and long-range uses of these properties will be recommended to the EBMUD team which will prepare the master plan.

Areas under consideration are watershed lands surrounding Briones, San Pablo, Lafayette, Upper San Leandro and Chabot reservoirs, as well as the proposed Pinole Reservoir, all in the East Bay, and EBMUD-owned watershed lands surrounding Camanche and Pardee reservoirs in Amador, Calaveras, and San Joaquin counties.

The directive to master-plan EBMUD's land holdings was embodied in an land-use policy statement dictating that special consideration must be given to those uses of land "which will protect and preserve its open-space characteristics." The policy also states that, "Economically and operationally sound multiple uses of watershed lands and reservoirs may be permitted when feasible and not in conflict with the primary purpose of watershed lands, which is to enhance and protect the quality of the water supply."

Six major aspects of the policy were given:

1. Retain fee title to and direct control over all lands and reservoirs essential to the security or operation of the utility system. Where required, patrol them.

2. Encourage recreational development on long-term lease by private concessionaires so that recreational uses of District lands and reservoirs will be self-supporting whenever possible, with the District to receive a fair return on the value of the property.

3. Consider permitting other qualified public agencies to manage recreation areas and programs on District lands and reservoirs upon terms that will ensure that the cost, except for supervision and patrolling to protect water quality, will be borne by these agencies.

4. District lands not susceptible to recreational development by private interests should be opened for limited uses with emphasis on riding, hiking, nature trails, and day camps. The cost should be borne by (a) revenue derived from other recreation facilities to the greatest possible extent, (b) revenue from other public or quasi-public bodies that may be permitted access for public benefit, or (c) EBMUD.

5. When requested by a county in accordance with the "Masterson Act" (AB 286) and where public need is demonstrated, reservoir or watershed areas should be opened for public recreation. When it is not feasible for the areas to be developed and opened either by private concessionaire or another qualified public agency, the District will do so. Costs shall, as far as possible, be met through revenues from other recreation operations. When those revenues are not enough, the District may include in the property taxes a suffi-

cient amount to cover operating deficits, and capital requirements for recreational purposes. If large sums for capital development are needed, it may ask the voters to approve a bond issue for that purpose.

6. In selling or leasing lands classified as surplus by the Land Use Master Plan, they should be offered first to other public or quasi-public bodies, with sale prices or lease terms to be negotiated and based on the market value of such lands.

NEW AGE DAWNS FOR SEWAGE

Design work is scheduled to start this fall on a $50,000 pilot plan to study the effects of additional sewage treatment techniques on waste waters processed by EBMUD. According to the District, EBMUD was the first agency to use a regional approach to cleaning up the Bay, and eliminated the notorious stench remembered by motorists along the Eastshore Freeway before 1951. But, in the words of Water Pollution Control Department Manager Elmer E. Ross, "the treatment now provided, which was entirely acceptable as recently as two years ago, must be upgraded to meet increasingly high water quality standards."

The study was requested by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board after finding the the utility district could not comply 100 per cent with the new standards.

"The study will recommend the best method or combination of techniques for taking out dissolved and suspended material, only partially removed by our present processes," said Ross.

Noting that the present process removes more than 98 per cent of all settleable material, Ross stated that the pilot plant will concentrate on additional chemical and biological methods that would improve the removal of suspended and dissolved materials, in turn improving clarity and reducing nutrients.

"We will study the effect of polymers, alum, and lime on our current effluent, as well as plain aeration and biological process," he explained.

Design and construction of the pilot plant is expected to take approximately nine months, and should be completed by June of next year. Experiments will be made daily on 100,000 gallons of the 81 million gallons treated in the present plant on an average day.

We try to keep even-tempered about developers. We have them, just as we had people who raided the forests and killed off the wildlife. If we have an enemy, it's the raiders today who are interested in short-term profits, and we find ourselves in a race with them. --Stewart L. Udall, in Holiday.

Water, Water

"Go to the American River!" That advice was given to EBMUD by consulting engineers retained to study future water needs of its 280 square mile service area with more than one million people.

According to the consultants, EBMUD's present rights to 325 million gallons of water daily from the Mokelumne River will be sufficient only until about the year 1985. Current water usage in the East Bay already exceeds 200 million gallons daily. An additional 115 million gallons per day will be needed by the year 2000, and an extra 200 million gallons a day for 2,400,000 people by the year 2020.

Only two sources of supplememtal water supply for the District justify further consideration: (1) the American River via the Auburn-Folsom South Unit of the Federal Central Valley Project, and (2) the Sacramento River, via the proposed Peripheral Canal, under either the Central Valley Project or the State Water Project.

The American River source would be the more costly, but it has significant advantages which outweigh the cost differential.

Middle age stretches from 20 to 70 for non-smokers who exercise properly and watch their diet. --Dr. Paul Dudley White (Louisville Courier-Journal).

CAN WE ADAPT IN TIME?

Man's remarkable adaption to conditions so different from those in which he evolved has given rise to a myth that he can modify his way of life and his enviroment indefinitely and without risk. This is not true, according to René Dubos, Ph.D., Professor of Enviromental Medicine at Rockefeller University.

Addressing the 22nd World Health Assembly, Dr. Dubos said, "Modern man can only adapt himself to the extent that the mechanisms for adaptation are present in potential form in his genetic code."

Man can tolerate, to some degree, the environmental pollution, the overintensity of stimuli, the harassing social life in a competitive atmosphere, and a rhythm completely foreign to his natural biologic cycles, but the cost is likely to be an increase in degenerative disabilities.

Man can learn to live in an ugly environment without the biologic stimuli of the natural world, but "in the long run, it may impoverish his life and lead to the gradual loss of the qualities which we associate with the idea of a human being."

Doctor Dubos observed that modern suburbs compare unfavorably with life on the average American farm 50 years ago, when "the need to do chores and the richness of small events extracted from the child a full measure of response." He added that man probably cannot adapt to the toxic effects of chemical pollution and of certain synthetic products, to the physiological and mental difficulties caused by lack of physical effort, to the mechanization of life, and to the presence of a wide variety of artificial stimulants.

Ending on a note of optimism, Dr. Dubos declared that it is still possible to reverse or halt some of the present processes that are making this planet uninhabitable. He called on young mothers to organize themselves. "The future of their children is at stake," he warned. (Medical Tribune, Aug. 4, 1969.)

Bike And Be Healthy

Exercise is the single most important factor in holding down the incidence of atherosclerotic heart disease, according to a recent report in Medical Tribune.

Medical researchers at Trinity College, Dublin, and at Harvard University studied 500 pairs of middle-aged, Irish-born brothers. One brother in each pair had emigrated to the Boston area; the other brother stayed in Ireland. Most of these men were farm workers. The emigrants became urbanized and took very little exercise. The remainder continued to work on the land and did a lot of bicycle riding.

Evidence of coronary disease was twice as common in the Boston men; left-sided enlargement of the heart was six times as common, and all other abnormalities of the heart were twice as common.

"The reasonably affluent Irishman on the farm or in the city buys a bicycle," said Dr. Frederick J. Stare, of Harvard. "In the country, the Irishman bikes 4 or 5 miles to the pub."

End Of Overhead Blight In Sight?

A recently completed study, sponsored by the Edison Electric Institute and conducted by the Linde Division of the Union Carbide Corporation, has shown the feasibility of sending high-voltage electric power through underground cables of superconducting niobium. The cable, refrigerated to within a few degrees of absolute zero, would have extremely low losses. A single 20-inch pipe system could handle more power than New York City currently consumes. Super-conducting systems could eventually free the landscape of overhead transmission lines, at least in cities and scenic areas. (Adapted from Scientific American, August, 1969.)

"Get off your saturated fatty acids and move!" exhorts Dr. Irvine H. Page, in Modern Medicine. He says that little is more talked about and less done about on the cocktail circuit than cholesterol and jogging. "Walking and jogging," he observes "are surely the simplest forms of human exercise. Male legs are in the process of atrophying into vestigial appendages having no function, thanks to elevators, automobiles, and golf carts. Women still recognize the visual attraction of theirs as disclosed by mini-skirts, but even that will be taken away be the dictators of fashion as soon as they are sure women are well stocked with them."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 17	8:00 p.m., Park Council Board Meeting, Concord Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord. (See news item.)
Sept. 20	Planning and Conservation League Workshop Conference, U. C. Santa Barbara. (See news item.)
Sept. 27	Smog-free Locomotion Day, Berkeley. (See news item.)
Oct. 13-14	Man and Creativity, Civic Arts Gallery, Walnut Creek. (See news item.)

A detailed analysis of the effects of physical exercise among 260 subjects with arteriosclerotic heart disease showed that they were able to perform muscular effort more efficiently after training, with fewer heart beats, lower blook pressure, and greater aerobic capacity, according to Dr. Herman K. Hellerstein, of Cleveland, Ohio. Psychologically, the 618 middle-aged men in the study (260 with angina pectoris or documented myocardial infarction or both, plus 358 coronary-prone men) appeared to improve, subjectively and objectively, as a whole. The spouses of the patients were enthusiastic because of the change in the personality and the greater ease of cohabitation. --Medical Tribune.

The advantage of the motor vehicle as a flexible and freely moving mode of transportation has been lost in its own uncontrolled and unprovided-for abundance -- like a herd of protected elk reduced to starvation by its own proliferation on a limited range. --Arthur E. Palmer, Jr., New York City Transportation Administrator.

Another recent study confirms the value of exercise. Dr. William B. Kannel, of the National Heart Institute, reported that 5,127 men and women were followed over a period of eight years to determine whether the rate at which they developed heart attacks was related to their habitual level of physical activity. "Lack of a reasonable level of physical activity was found to be associated with a substantial mortality from coronary heart disease," Dr. Kannel said.

One important finding was that sedentary people were much more likely than active people to die from heart attacks. The explanation was that physical activity tends to encourage the development of collateral circulation in the heart of a person with a significant degree of blockage in the coronary artery. Thus, when coronary occlusion eventually occurs, these auxiliary blood vessels may be able to assume the burden of supplying the heart muscle, so the person survives the attack. --Medical Tribune.

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NEJEDLY AND KNOX TO SPEAK IN MARTINEZ

Contra Costa legislators Nejedly and Knox will discuss conservation issues at a public meeting on Tuesday, October 21, at Kennedy University, 1124 Ferry Street, Martinez. The meeting time is 8:00 p.m. Park Council members and friends, local officials, and all other interested people are invited to attend.

State Senator John A. Nejedly and Assemblyman John T. Knox have distinguished themselves as conservation-minded legislators determined to halt the increasingly rapid destruction of environmental quality.

Senator Nejedly has strongly opposed the Peripheral Canal, a $209 million project forming part of the immensely costly plan to divert N. California water to Los Angeles. He also introduced legislation to ban DDT from California agriculture. Assemblyman Knox led the difficult but ultimately successful fight to save the Bay. He has been a strong advocate of open space preservation within a framework of regional government. These few examples illustrate the commitment of both legislators to the cause of conservation.

Tell everyone about the October 21 meeting. Bring as many people as possible with you.

PARK COUNCIL TO MEET

The next regular meeting of the Park Council will take place on Wednesday, October 15, in the Concord Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord, starting at 8:00 p.m.

The meeting is open to all Park Council members, as well as to anyone else with an interest in parks, open space, and other environmental issues. You are sure of a warm welcome.

PARK COUNCIL ACTION

At its September 17 meeting, the Park Council did this:

-- Approved, with pleasure, a request from Dr. Landis for 300 copies per month of Park Council News for distribution to the public schools of the county.

-- Learned from Manny Lindner that a conservation brochure on the Las Trampas area is being prepared.

-- Heard a talk by Paul Ryan, General Manager, Valley Community Services District, on the need for a county park dedication ordinance. Resolved to notify the Board of Supervisors that the Council supports such an ordinance.

-- Discussed the possibility that government surplus land at Port Chicago might be converted to public open space.

-- Accepted with thanks an offer by Dan Clancy, DVC instructor, to lend nature and conservation films for Park Council use.

ABAG GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO HOLD MEETING

The Fall meeting of the ABAG General Assembly will be held on Friday, October 31, at the Claremont Hotel, Berkeley. Registration starts at 8:45 a.m.

The morning session, starting at 9:15 a.m., will consist of five concurrent workshops in Regional Planning (including general transportation and airports), Criminal Justice Planning, Revenue and Taxation, Regional Organization, and New and Innovative Programs. After a luncheon meeting, the General Assembly will convene at 1:45 p.m.

All interested persons are invited to attend.

BRIONES POWERLINES HALTED

The Public Utilities Commission has issued an order stopping P G & E from resuming construction of the controversial Briones powerlines until the public has had a chance to express its views.

On Sunday, September 28, a group of Park Council members and friends hiked through the area that would be affected by the 120-foot towers. Al Burton, Park Council President, later reported that the lines would be highly destructive of the beautiful scenery now existing near Briones Reservoir. In addition, the towers would be visible from fully half of the Briones Regional Park. This visible intrusion defeats one of the main purposes for establishing the park: preservation of a scenic

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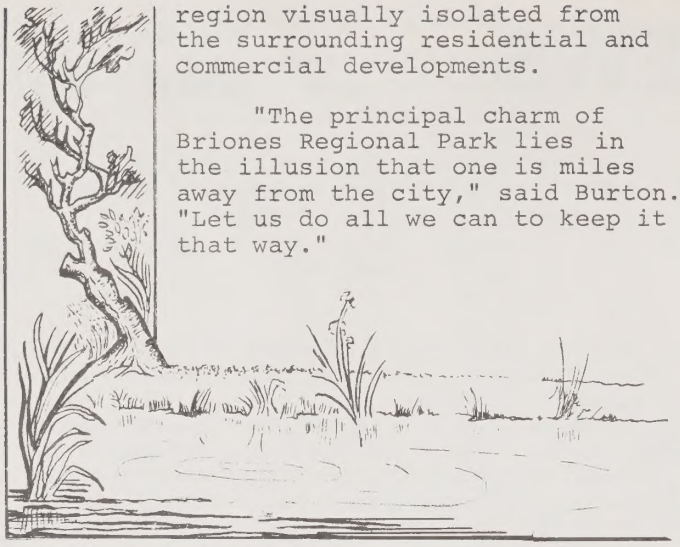


region visually isolated from the surrounding residential and commercial developments.

"The principal charm of Briones Regional Park lies in the illusion that one is miles away from the city," said Burton. "Let us do all we can to keep it that way."

PARK DEDICATION ORDINANCE SOUGHT

The Contra Costa Board of Supervisors has again postponed its long-awaited decision on a countywide park dedication ordinance. The ordinance would require subdividers either to dedicate park land for use by people living in the subdivision, or give the local authority the equivalent value in money to be used for park aquisition. A decision is expected on October 7.

The ordinance has been requested by Valley Community Services District for the San Ramon area, which lies in Contra Costa County. VCSD has already received approval by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors of a similar ordinance for the Dublin area.

Associated Homebuilders of the East Bay has filed suit against the City of Walnut Creek, contending that the city's park dedication ordinance violates eminent domain and takes property without just compensation. Not so, say more than 30 other cities that have joined Walnut Creek in its brief supporting the ordinance.

The Park Council strongly favors enactment of a county park dedication ordinance, together with greatly increased use of the planned unit development concept, which gives an open-space character to residential and other developments.

CONSERVATION NOTES

-- A moratorium on all major public works projects in California has been suggested by Assemblyman George Milias (R-Gilroy) to halt "our lemming-like march to oblivion." During the moratorium, the state could reassess the commitments we have made, the directions in which we are headed, and the environmental impact of current public works programs. The time has come, he said, "to recognize the irreversibility and universality of resource destruction." Milias noted that the principal planning in this state is in the hands of water engineers and hydrologists of the Department of Water Resources, "who by law must be primarily concerned with delivering water to contracting agencies."

-- Congressional authorization of the upper and lower Pine Creek watershed projects is assured, according to Rep. Jerome R. Waldie (D-Antioch). He called the projects vital safeguards against serious flooding that has caused damage in Walnut Creek almost every year. Plans include development of a recreation area, Arroyo del Cerro.

-- Fred C. Blumberg, EBRPD Vice-President, has been elected President of the Commissioners-Board Members Branch of the National Recreation and Parks Association. The branch has a nationwide membership of 8,500. Congratulations, Fred!

-- No State Park funds for 5 or 6 years is the dismal prospect for Mt. Diablo expansion. Members and friends willing to do something about it are asked to call Mary Bowerman, 283-3483.

-- The American Association of University Women is making an environmental study with the title, "This Beleaguered Earth: Can Man Survive?"

PLEASANTON SMOG GETS WORSE

Citizens of Pleasanton and surrounding communities are complaining more and more about smog. The Livermore Valley, until recently a quiet area of bucolic charm, has undergone rapid urbanization. Local automobiles now add their increasing quota to the huge volume of pollution from heavy through traffic on Interstate 580, and smog levels often rival those of Los Angeles.

Among the urgent pleas for antismog action are demands for a great slowdown in the rate of development until pollution-free cars and trucks can be introduced. Meanwhile, people are being advised to walk and bike, and recreation officials are asking for a network of bikeways to be established in the valley.

APPERSON RIDGE DECISION POSPONED AGAIN

Alameda County Board of Supervisors has once again postponed its decision whether to approve or reject Utah Mining and Construction Company's proposal to mine the crest of Apperson Ridge. Opponents fear that the 30-year quarrying operation would pollute this prime wilderness with 24-hour-a-day noise, would display lights visible from much of the Sunol Valley Regional Park, and would constitute a major industrial encroachment into a beautiful region otherwise destined to remain a priceless greenbelt.

The Park Council has already gone on record as opposed to the quarry proposal. If any of you have not already done so, the Park Council urges you to sign an anti-quarry petition and/or write to the individual supervisors: Supervisors Bort, Hannon, Murphy, Razeto, and Sweeney, County Administration Building, 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, Calif. 94612.

OAKLAND MUSEUM SUPERB

The New Oakland Museum, at 10th and Fallon Streets, next door to the Auditorium, opened its doors to the public a few days ago. This superb museum has three main sections: art, history, and natural sciences. The schedule for visiting is from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, and from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Friday. It is closed Mondays.

Conservationists will find the natural history and ecological exhibits of great interest and value. They present the conservation message skillfully and convincingly.

SWIMMING IN THE PARKS

After Sunday, September 28, swimming at the EBRPD's Don Castro, Cull Canyon and Contra Loma Reservoir swim spots will be on a "weekends only" basis. Hours are 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. All will be closed for swimming on week-days. Roberts pool at Roberts Regional Recreation Area will maintain the same schedule.

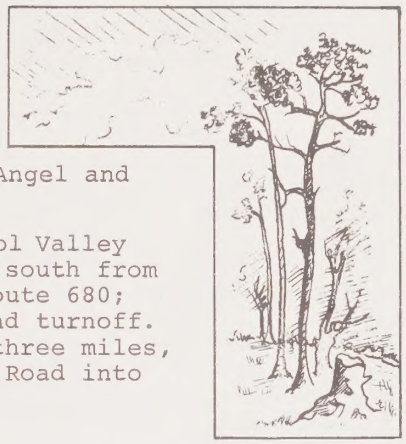
Week-day swimming, however, will continue at Lake Temescal and Lake Anza, depending upon weather and the availability of lifeguards. Weekday hours are 12 noon to 6:00 p.m.; weekends, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Prospective week-day users of Lake Anza and Lake Temescal are urged to phone ahead and find out what the situation is. Telephone number for East Bay Regional Park District headquarters at 11500 Skyline Boulevard in Oakland is 531-9300.

NATURE AT SUNOL

The sights and sounds of California's autumn will play starring roles in a series of nature education programs to be held on Sunday afternoons at Sunol Valley Regional Park during September and October.

Starting with a nature talk at 2 p.m. in Sunol's "old green barn" nature center, the programs will enable families and individuals to learn more about the outdoor pleasures available at this time of year and how Sunol's plants and animals make a balance in nature. A short walk will follow in which a "five senses" approach to nature appreciation will be stressed, according to park naturalists Dick Angel and Joanne Dean.



To reach Sunol Valley Regional Park, go south from the Bay Area on Route 680; take Calaveras Road turnoff. Drive east about three miles, then follow Geary Road into the park area.

ON FOOT TO THE HIGH SIERRA

With a preliminary stroll through six of the East Bay Regional Parks, Kenneth Pratt, 41, has begun a 300-mile, five-county "walk across California" for the new $7,000,000 Oakland Museum. Pratt is accompanied by his 15-year-old Bay, "Mingo." He emphasizes "accompanied" since the Mill Valley editor, publisher, writer, and lecturer will try as much as possible to walk the trans-California route with "Mingo" as a sort of packhorse.

Purpose of the scientifically-oriented "bunion derby" is to give a practical illustration of the "walk across California" visible in the museum's Natural Science Division. The walk progresses logically from the state's littoral and tidal pools, through the Coast Range, Central Valley, and Mother Lode to Yosemite and the High Sierra.

The Oakland Museum Association is sponsoring his walk and/or ride. Pratt, a Stanford graduate, sees a book (hopefully a best seller) and a lecture series emerging from it. He thinks schools in Northern California might like to have lectures about the state's environmental and ecological values that "tell it like it is."

"Part of the reason for this 'walk across California'," Pratt explained, "is to keep the Oakland Museum exhibits related to reality. We must be careful not to create a California phantasyland." He

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 13-14	Man and Creativity, Civic Arts Gallery, Walnut Creek. (See item in Sept. issue.)
Oct. 15	8:00 p.m., Park Council open meeting, Concord Library. (See news item.)
Oct. 21	8:00 p.m., Sen. Nejedly and Assemblyman Knox speak on conservation issues. Kennedy University, Martinez. (See news item.)
Oct. 23-25	California Conservation Council annual meeting, Claremont Hotel, Berkeley.
Oct. 31	Fall meeting of ABAG General Assembly, Claremont Hotel, Berkeley. Registration starts 8:45 a.m. (See news item.)

points out that there are freeways, urban sprawl and fences to contend with.

"In the back of my mind," he says, "is the hope that perhaps I can pioneer, in a small way, trails that will link parks and recreation areas. Perhaps, in years to come, there will be youth hostels at regular intervals to accomodate youthful hikers, horsemen, and bicyclists."

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS ON CONSERVATION

The 1969-1970 list of official publications on conservation is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

A good selection of these publications is on sale at the Government Bookshop in the Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco. The bookshop is well worth a visit. You will also find there a fascinating variety of books and pamphlets on gardening, cooking, space travel, flying, electronics, and many other topics, all at moderate cost.

An associate textbook editor in New York won $912 in Workmen's Compensation for breaking his leg while doing a jig in a moving elevator during his lunch hour. The appellate court ruled that the jig was a reasonable result of his happiness with his job.

CONSERVATION REFERENCES

A file of roughly 600 up-to-date conservation publications with an annotated bibliography is available for use at the National Audubon Society office, 2389 Oregon Street, Berkeley. The file was established by the California Conservation Council with the generous financial assistance of Standard Oil Company of California.

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PARK COUNCIL NEWS

Newsletter of the Contra Costa Park Council, P.O. Box 101, Walnut Creek, Calif.,94597
Editor: Patrick Whittle, 176 Waterman Circle, Danville, Calif., 94526, Telephone 837-3478

A Word From The Park Council President

Sixteen years ago, when the Contra Costa Park Council was first formed, the problems faced by our little group were in retrospect quite simple. Open-space preservation was our only concern. Lovely Briones, and more recently the serene wilderness of Las Trampas Park, are monuments to this effort. Conservation was for the dedicated few, who were regarded just a little indulgently by their "more practical" fellow citizens. Eutrophication and ecology were not yet household words, and the thought that our Bay Area would be cursed with smog was laughable. Now, the problems of a conservation group are so numerous and so varied that it must keep a constant guard against desperately riding off in all directions at once.

What this preamble has been leading up to is that the Contra Costa Park Council needs more people. The little organization we used to be just isn't adequate to cope with the king-sized environmental problems confronting us now. Along with everyone else, you probably complain about the deterioration of your environment. But instead of simply crying in your beer about how bad everything is getting to be, why not give a hand to the Park Council in it's effort to improve things? If you join our effort, you will find that conservationists are normal and usually quite delightful people to associate with. If you would like a piece of the conservation action, give me a ring or drop me a note. You will be given a hearty welcome aboard.

Whether or not you actively work with the Park Council, we would like to enroll you as a member. The Contra Costa Park Council is the only county-wide organization concerning itself with the special conservation problems of Contra Costa. Just to be a little selfish for a moment, it is your own environment and mine that we are trying to maintain as livable as possible. This issue of the Park Council News includes a membership envelope for your convenience. The envelope will be included only very occasionally, so don't miss the chance to join now. The minimum $2.00 membership barely covers the cost of the Park Council News itself. A more generous contribution will help defray the cost of the many other activities of the Council.

Al Burton, 151 Cafeto Court, Walnut Creek, Calif., 94598, Tel. 934-5716

Park Dedication Ordinance Essential

You have been hearing more and more about a park dedication ordinance for Contra Costa County. What is this, why is it important, and why does it provoke dissention? A park dedication ordinance is simply a requirement that, before approval of a subdivision plan, a small portion of the land must be dedicated for park or open-space usage. If there are less than fifty lots, money may be given in lieu of land, and credit will also be given for open space provided in the original plan.

These ordinances are made possible by state enabling legislation passed in 1965. Since then, over 80 cities and four counties in California have taken advantage of this legislation. Every major city in Contra Costa has such an ordinance; so have Alameda and Marin counties.

It is true that the constitutionality of the state law is being challenged in a test case against the city of Walnut Creek filed by the Associated Home Builders of the Greater East Bay. However, a Superior Court ruled in favor of the city in 1968; and, although the case is being appealed, the litigation is not considered a serious threat to use of the State statue.

There is desperate need for this ordinance in the county. Anyone looking to the future can see that with lot sizes becoming always smaller and population density always greater, oases of open space must be provided. We can hardly expect this to be done voluntarily by the developers. An obvious alternative to land dedication is for the city or county to purchase whatever land is considered neces-

The Contra Costa Park Council, formerly the Contra Costa Park and Recreation Council, is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California. The Park Council is dedicated to fostering the natural beauty of the county, preserving open space, and providing adequate opportunity for healthful recreation. Contributions are tax-deductible.
President: Alvin A. Burton, 151 Cafeto Court, Walnut Creek, California, 94598, Telephone 934-5716

sary for future park and playground use. In the long run, this might well be one of the shrewdest possible use of tax money. However, sensing the present militant mood of overburdened taxpayers, it is easy to appreciate the hesitancy of councilmen and supervisors to use this method.

A moment's consideration shows the dedication method to be the more equitable. Why should the older residents in the area who have been buying their parks for years be saddled with the cost of parks for newcomers in an outlying new subdivision? The dedication method places the cost of the new neighborhood park where it belongs: on the new residents, who will be the ones using it. Furthermore, state and federal grants and matching funds will be made available for these dedicated lands. Opportunities for such largesse must nowadays be a factor in all city planning.

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors has had the proposed park dedication ordinance under consideration for a full year without deciding the matter. In a report dated September 30, 1969, the Public Education and Recreation Committee (Supervisors Thomas Coll and James Kenny) submitted a report recommending <u>against</u> adoption of the ordinance. We would like to examine the reasons given for this adverse recommendation:

(1) "It is necessary that the ordinance be applicable county-wide, even though the only park program being given active consideration is that proposed by the Valley Community Services District."

It is true that the VCSD has been actively sponsoring the ordinance, but the problem is county-wide and equally acute everywhere. We would <u>want</u> nothing less than a county-wide ordinance.

(2) "Seventy percent of the population of the county reside within city limits and the cities in the county are proceeding with their own park programs."

This reason misses the point completely. The proposed ordinance is aimed at a proper development of the areas where there are not yet <u>any</u> people. The fact that the cities are providing parks for their people should serve as an example for the county. As the local government agency for all unincorporated areas, maybe the county is shirking a responsibility by paying no attention whatever to smaller city-type parks and playgrounds. The East Bay Regional Park District has assumed responsibility for large regional parks, but small neighborhood parks have never been in its domain.

(3) "The only existing means for the county to develop park programs in specific areas would be through the creation of autonomous park and recreation districts or through the use of the county service area; the creation of additional autonomous entities is not considered appropriate, and the use of the county service area arrangement puts the county back in the park business (For development, operation and maintenance of local parks)."

The immediate and overriding problem is <u>not</u> the development and operation of small park units. The problem is to preserve at least a little bit of open space from all-engulfing development. In future years there may be a varied pattern for development of small parks. Some might go to home-owner groups and some to special districts, but most will be taken over by the ever expanding cities. The important thing is to save the unbuilt-upon land. Park development will come in good time.

(4) "It was necessary for the county to raise its tax rate for the fiscal year 1969-1970 by 26.4 cents (particularly because of increased social program costs) and it is not desirable for the county at this time to consider the implementation of new programs."

The people of the county also deplore the higher tax rate and are in agreement that this is no time for expensive new programs. However, even if the county should assume the maintenance of these dedicated parcels, all that would be required would be spraying the weeds to prevent a fire hazard. Open land it has always been and unimproved open land it would remain for a little while longer. These land parcels would simply be the vacant lots that the kids used to play ball on in an earlier day.

From the standpoint of the county supervisors there <u>are</u> problems with the nuts-and-bolts arrangements, but certainly nothing that cannot be surmounted if approached constructively. Developers complain that it is a taking of land without compensation. It is an old accepted concept that streets can be so taken. It is a newer concept that open space is as important as streets and must be dedicated in the same manner. For the home buyer, the cost per lot is small and spread over many years. Rarely does the buyer complain. The cost is negligible and the benefits of the open-space preservation is too real.

Who wants a park dedication ordinance? Just about everbody! The Contra Costa Park Council, the Valley Community Services District, The Sierra Club, the East Bay Regional Park District, the League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women, and especially the cities of the county. At a recent meeting, the Mayor's Conference by acclamation passed a motion urging the county to adopt such an ordinance.

There is widespread and mounting interest in this Park Dedication Ordinance. More and more people are becoming concerned about environmental problems, and the preservation of open space is one of the most important. The adoption of this ordinance will be one firm step in providing the sort of future living quarters that people are demanding.

You are interested and want to help get this ordinance adopted. What can you do? The Supervisors are not mind readers. You must let them know how you feel. Write to the Board or to your own Supervisor, or phone your Supervisor and tell him that the people want this ordinance. Have your organization endorse the ordinance and sent the endorsement to the Supervisors. Phone Mrs. R. Smith, 939-4640, for a petition. Circulate it and return it to the Park Council.

Because of the interest being generated by this ordinance, the Supervisors have called a public hearing for 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 12, in their Chambers, Administration Building, Martinez. Be there. Bring a carful of friends and speak out if you wish. Only if you say it loud and clear can the County Supervisors get the message that we want this beautiful county kept as a pleasant place to live and that we need their full cooperation.

Park Council To Meet

The November meeting of the Contra Costa Park Council will take place on Wednesday, November 19, at 8:00 p.m., in the Concord Public Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord. All are welcome.

APPERSON RIDGE VICTORY

The lengthy, agonizing battle to save Apperson Ridge ended in victory for conservationists when the Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 against the application of Utah Mining and Construction Company to remove 100,000,000 tons of rock from the ridge. Supervisor John D. Murphy cast the one dissenting vote.

Utah's proposed quarry would have been worked as a night-and-day operation until the turn of the century.

According to newspaper accounts, Utah may not be willing to accept defeat. There is no indication yet as to the form its counter-attack if any, might take.

Readers wishing to show their appreciation to the Alameda County Supervisors who voted against the quarry should drop a line to them individually. They are Supervisors Joseph Bort, Robert Hannon, Emanuel Razeto, and Leland Sweeney, County Administration Building, 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, California 94612.

Park Council Action

At its Oct. 15 meeting, the Park Council took this action: -- Appointed Dan Clancy, DVC biology instructor, as Publicity Chairman.

-- Circulated a petition urging Pres. Nixon to save PT. Reyes by approving funds to complete its acquisition.

-- Decided to submit an article to The Yodeler asking for volunteers. The Park Council could be far more effective if more of its members would "get involved" in its work.

(see "A word from the park council president")

CONSERVATION NOTES

-- Heavy rains, the coming of colder weather, and the need to lower some flood-control lakes that supply water for "swim lagoons"... These factors made it necessary for EBRPD to close its swimming facilities on October 20 for the winter. Reopening is scheduled for Easter Week, 1970.

-- EBRPD has endorsed the efforts of the nine-county Save Our Seashore organization, which wants the federal government to complete acquisition of land for Pt. Reyes National Seashore. EBRPD V-P Fred Blumberg is serving on the sponsoring committee of "SOS".

-- The new underwater aerator at Lake Chabot is so successful that State Fish and Game Dept. has been able to plant 5,000 rainbow trout long after the normal "fish planting" season. Usually, the warmness of the water and its low oxygen content in late summer bring fish planting to an end in early fall. Denizens of the lake include catfish, black bass, carp, crappie and blue gill as well as trout.

-- Mary Bowerman"s telephone number is 283-3403, not as given in last month's news. Mary would like to hear from people who share her concern for Mt. Diablo and are willing to work with her for prompt expansion of the park. Subdivisions are already eating away scenic areas that should be acquired without delay for the park.

-- EBMUD hopes to open San Pablo Reservoir and some of the surrounding land to public recreation next summer. The reservoir is 3-1/2 miles long and has a surface area of 800 acres. Only a small portion of the adjoining 5,800-acre watershed is being considered for public access, mostly the western shoreline. Most of the land will remain as open space.

-- Ygnacio Valley Greenway is making progress. According to Contra Costa Times, the Oak Grove "meandering walkway" from Ygnacio Valley Road to Mitchell Drive is being financed by equal shares of $4,000 from Dow Chemical and the Gospel Foundation, plus $6,000 from the City of Walnut Creek Bicycling is particularly encouraged. When the entire greenway and Oak Grove projects are completed, people will be able to walk or bike from the east end of Ygnacio Valley Road and the high school to the new Heather Farms city park. At present, people trying to walk down the road are courting death from the auto traffic.

-- EBRPD opposed establishment of a police pistol range on Alameda County Water District lands near Coyote Hills Regional Park since it would be a "conflicting use."

-- EBRPD plans construction of all-weather roads serving Abrigo Valley (Pear Orchard)

and Homestead Valley in Briones Regional Park. The new Girl Scout shelter is reached via Homestead Valley.

-- Orinda Women's Club has donated $9,000 for construction of a tot lot at Briones.

-- EBRPD has accepted a bid for a "beach variety street sweeper" to rid Alameda Memorial State Beach of litter at the rate of 2.25 acres an hour.

-- EBMUD will continue to manage its Lafayette Reservoir recreation area until at least next July, according to a report in the Contra Costa Times. In July, the District's master land-use plan is due to be re-evaluated. EBRPD has long wanted to operate the Lafayette facility, believing that "it is the public loss when public agencies duplicate services."

-- A survey of E. Bay regional park users showed that most are young, either "teen-twenties" or young parents with children. Almost everyone praised the parks. There were a number of requests, especially from the "teen-twenties" for overnight camping facilities, more bicycle trails, and places for rock bands to play.

-- In the interests of eliminating legal "gobbledygook" from nonconstruction bids, EBRPD has trimmed the original 13-page bid form to one page.

-- EBRPD has approved salary increases for six department heads.

-- EBRPD counsel Donn Black reported that the contracting firm of Carlson and Maier, of Oakland, has the financial responsibility of replacing, as rapidly as possible, the $100,982 bathhouse complex at Alameda Memorial Beach. The bathhouse was recently destroyed by fire.

-- Walnut Creek Girl Scout Association has written to the city council suggesting that the Association and other youth groups participate in planning uses for the historic Shadelands Ranch house. The house and a small portion of land surrounding it may be deeded to the City for recreation and conferences. According to the Association, the property offers the possibilities of a "well-defined nature area, cyclist lanes and meeting space" offering "challenging opportunities" to young people (Contra Costa Times report.)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 8 Calif. Native Plants Society annual sale of native plants, Brazilian Room, Tilden Park, 10:00 am., to 3:00 p.m. Everyone welcome. Prices are low, and most items are not obtainable in regular nurseries.

Nov. 12 County Park Dedication Ordinance Hearing, 2:00 p.m., Supervisors Chambers, Martinez. This is important. Be there.

Nov. 19 Park Council open meeting, Concord Public Library, 8:00 p.m., Everyone welcome. (See news item.)

Dec. 6 Annual meeting, Save San Francisco Bay Association, Boalt Hall, U. C. Berkeley campus. Meeting at 9:30 p.m., followed at 10:00 a.m., by working conference on Bay problems.

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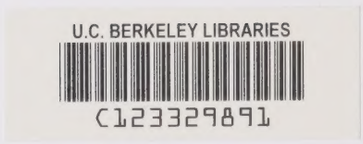

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